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- h) FCO [REDACTED] letter of 14 September) I entirely agree with the suggestion that an FCO presence is necessary in the Government liaison team in virtually all cases. Whether he should be at the police headquarters or at the forward control point will depend on the circumstances: but the point is that he should always be with the Government Liaison Officer. He must be briefed to work closely with the Government Liaison Officer, and to work exclusively to COBR. [REDACTED] was scrupulous in doing so. One potential threat to that was that the Foreign Office have their own emergency room. There were times when it was in danger of bypassing the COBR and putting points direct to, or pressing for information direct from, the scene. That both overstrained the resources at the scene, and ran the risk of destroying the identity of information between the scene and COBR which is crucial to the successful coordination of such operations.

F4 Division
9 October 1984